

NS 102 Lecture 9



Pieter Bruegel the Elder, ca. 1563



The Well Tempered Cosmology Class



NS 102 Lecture 9



Pieter Bruegel the Elder, ca. 1563

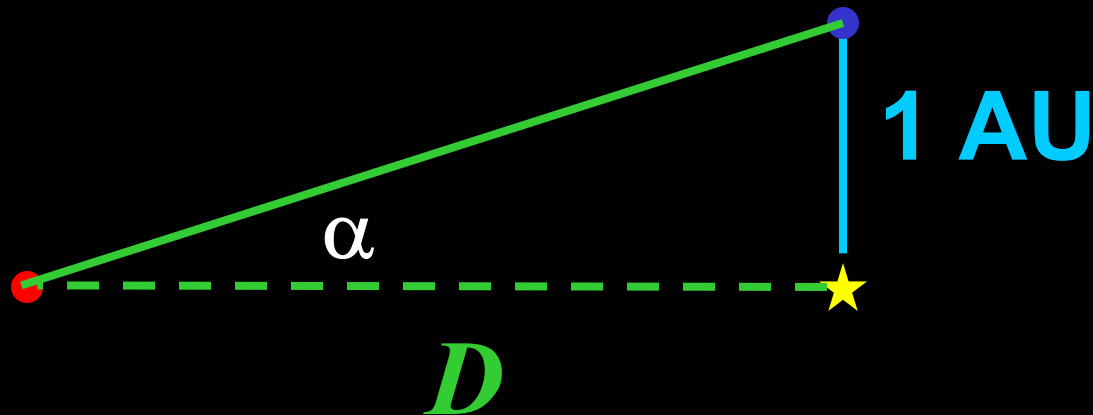
The Cosmological Distance Scale

Gustav Doré, ca. 1866



$$\frac{D}{200,000 \text{ AU}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{parallax}}$$

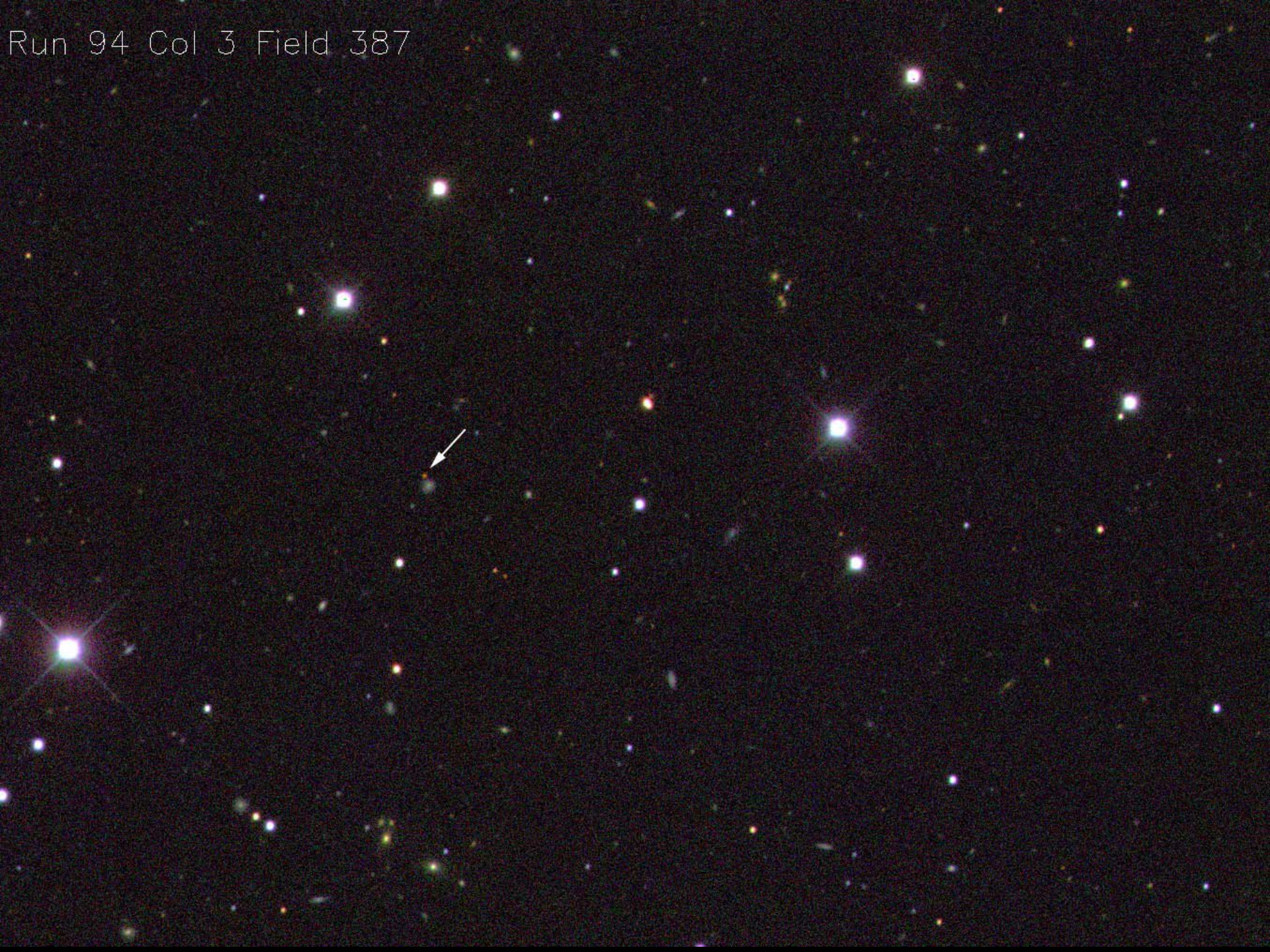
$$\frac{D}{\text{pc}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{parallax}}$$



$$\frac{D}{\text{pc}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{parallax}}$$

star	parallax (")	distance (pc)
α Centauri	0.75	1.3
Barnard's star	0.5	2.0
Sirius	0.4	2.5
Altair	0.2	5.0

Run 94 Col 3 Field 387



They have different apparent brightness

They have different colors

They move

They change in brightness

Intensity: energy per time per area

$$I = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Time Area}}$$

I_0 = threshold of hearing

$$\text{dB} = 10 \log (I / I_0)$$

Intensity: energy per time per area

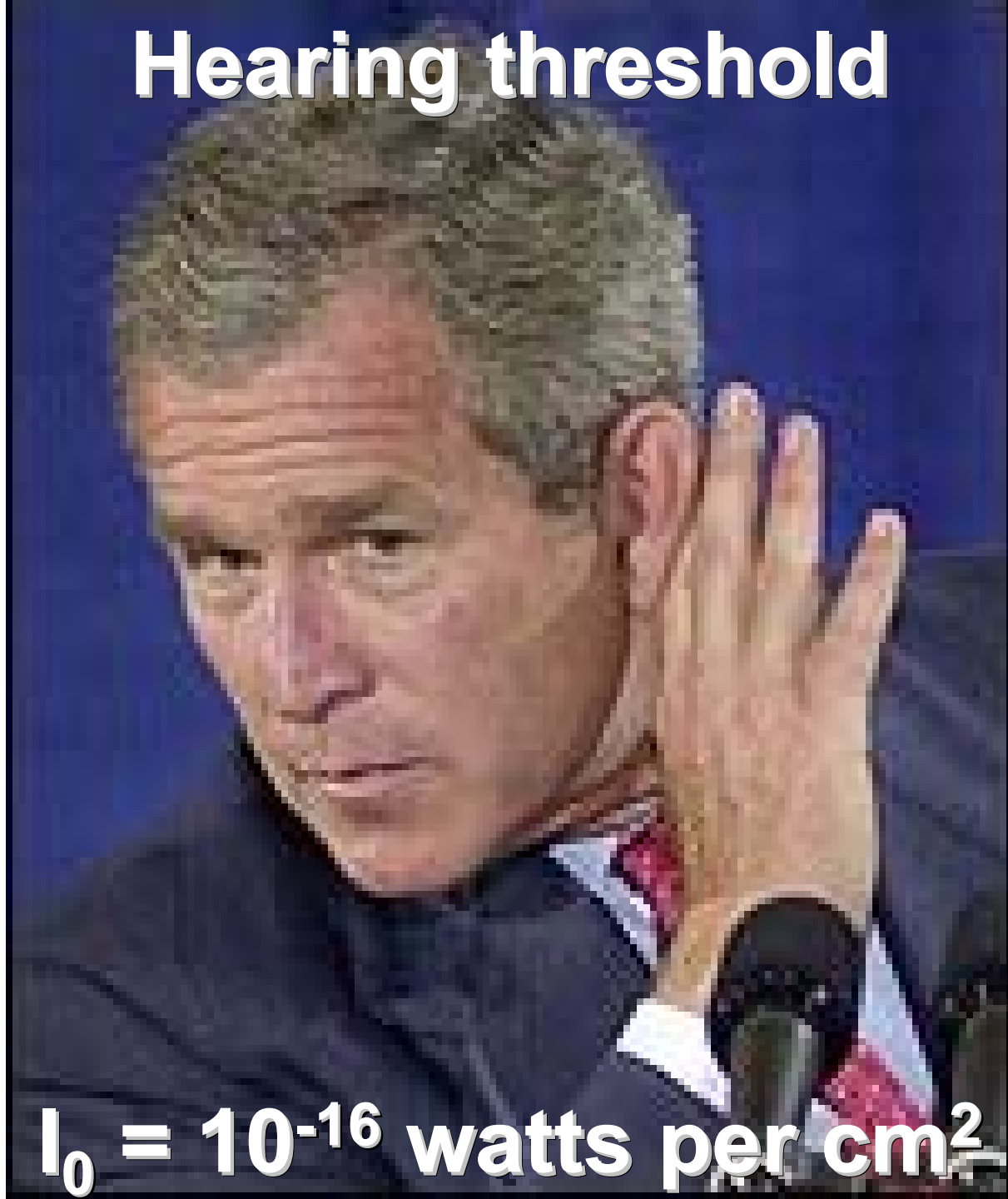
$$I = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Time Area}}$$

$\frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Time}}$ (Power) measured in watts

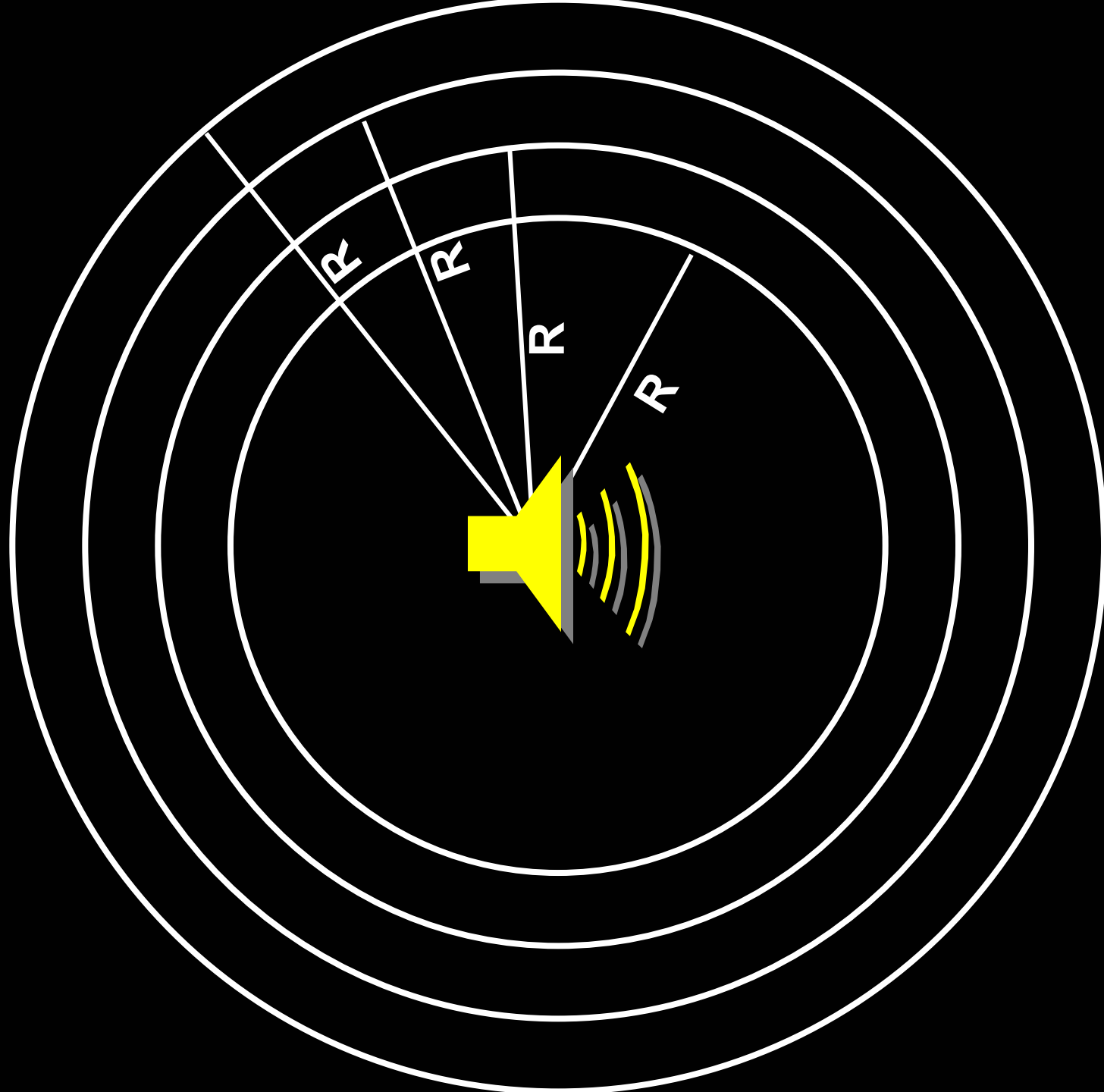
Area measured in cm^2

Intensity in watts per cm^2

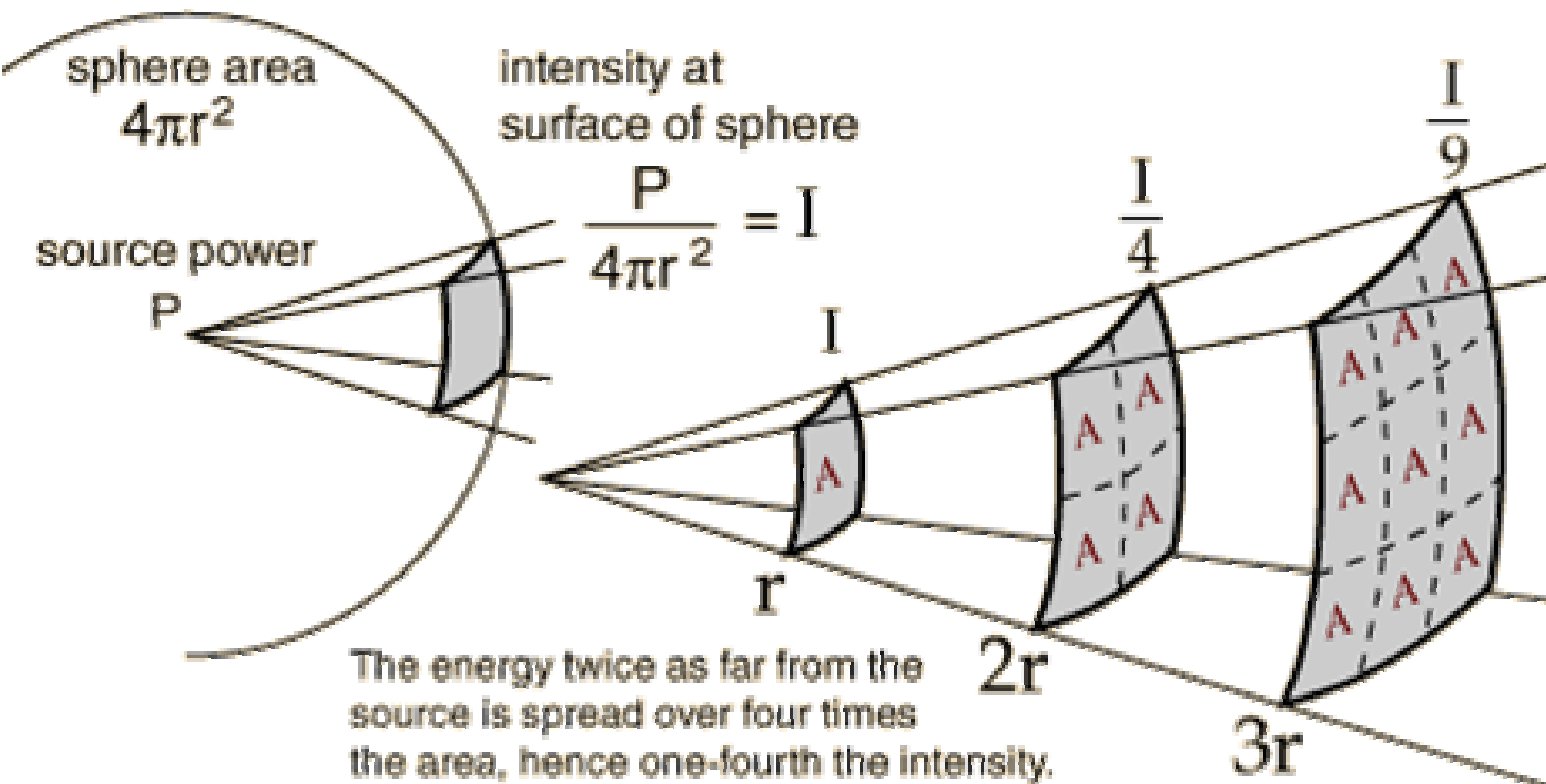
Hearing threshold

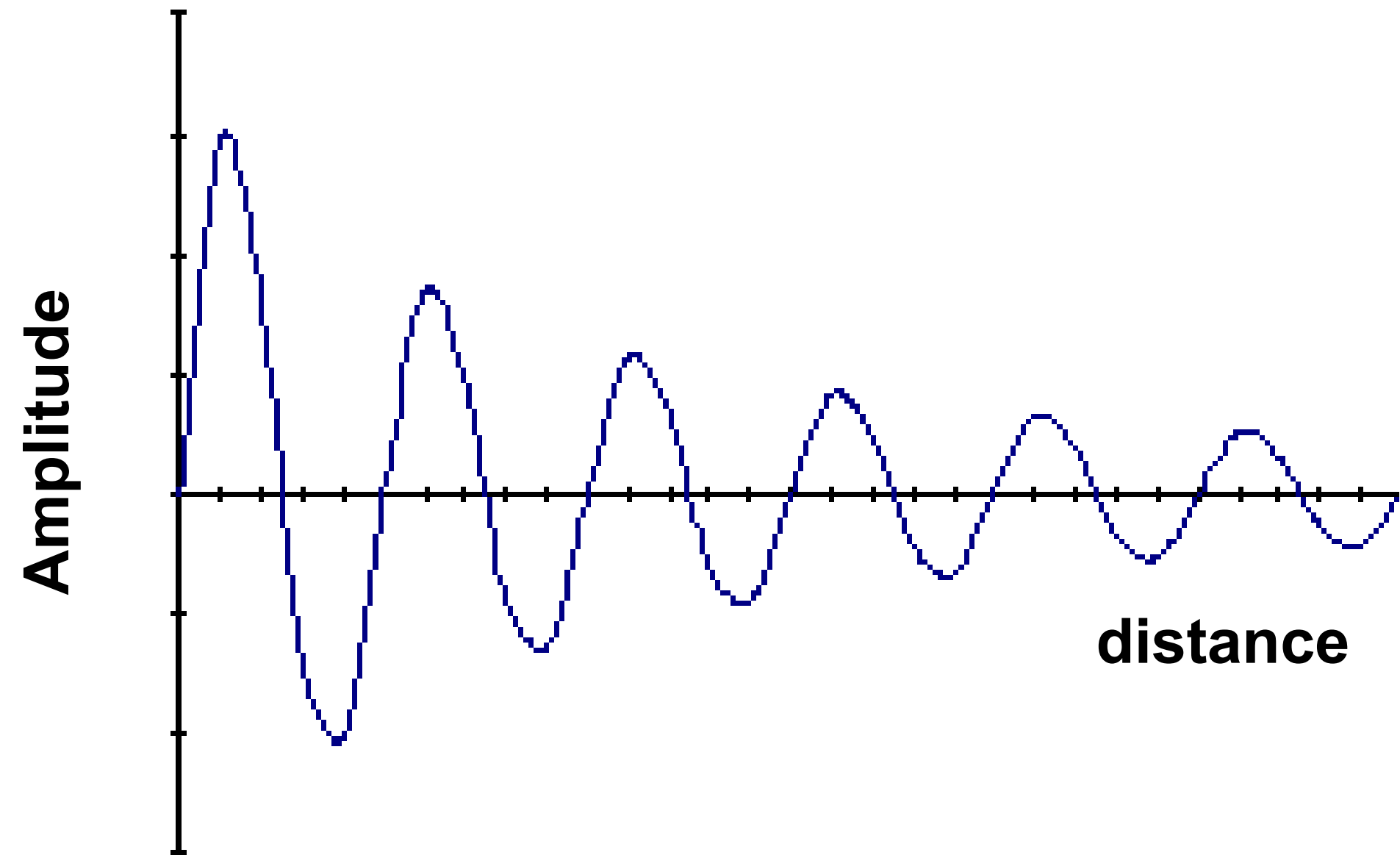


$$I_0 = 10^{-16} \text{ watts per cm}^2$$



Inverse-square law





Intensity: energy per time per area

$$I = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Time Area}}$$

$$I = \frac{\text{power}}{\text{cm}^2}$$

Power **property of source**

Intensity **depends on power
and distance between
source and detector (R)**

$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{\text{power}}{4\pi R^2}$$

Let there be light



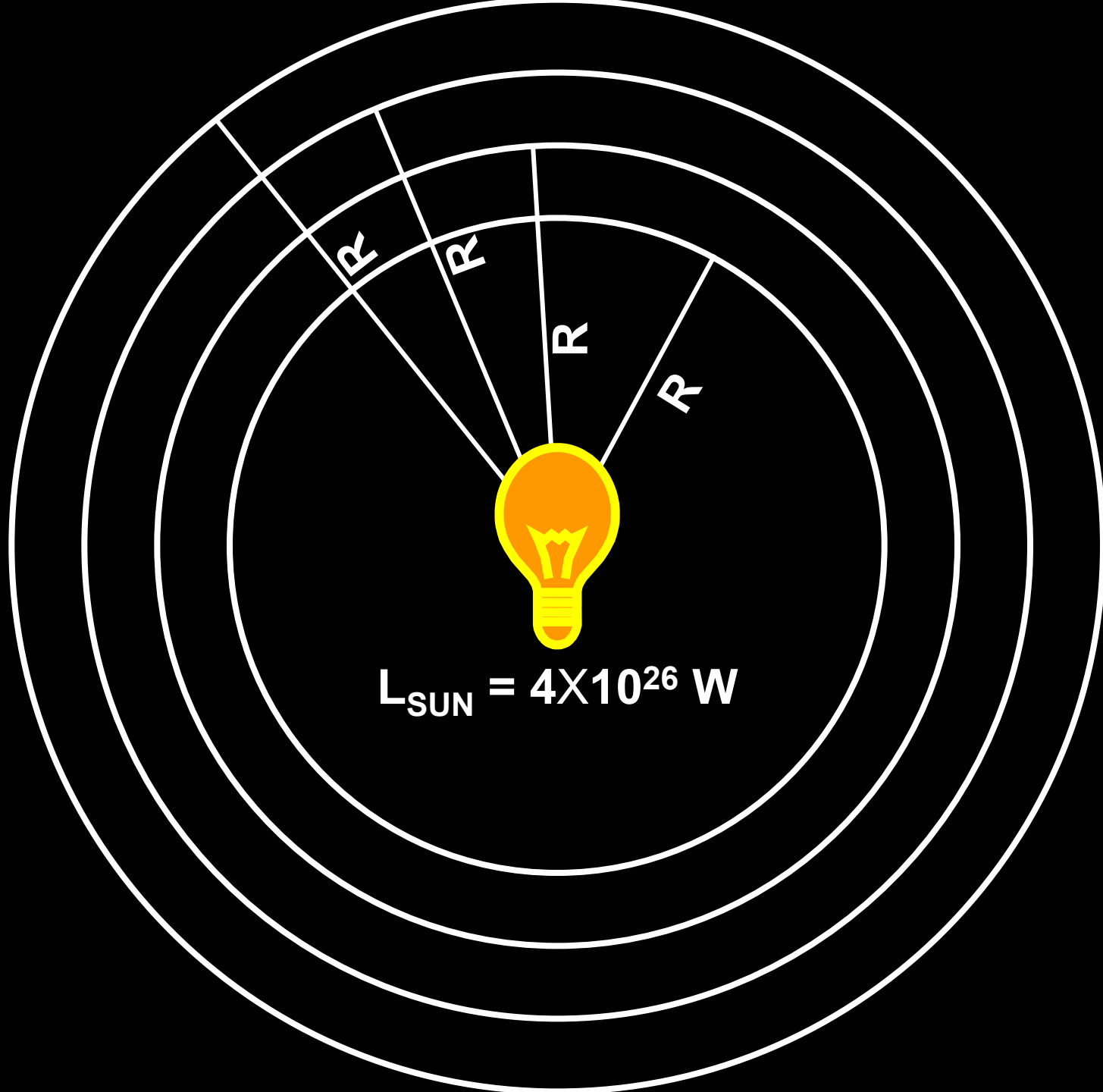
For light!!!

$$I = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Time Area}}$$

$\frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Time}}$ (Luminosity) measured in watts

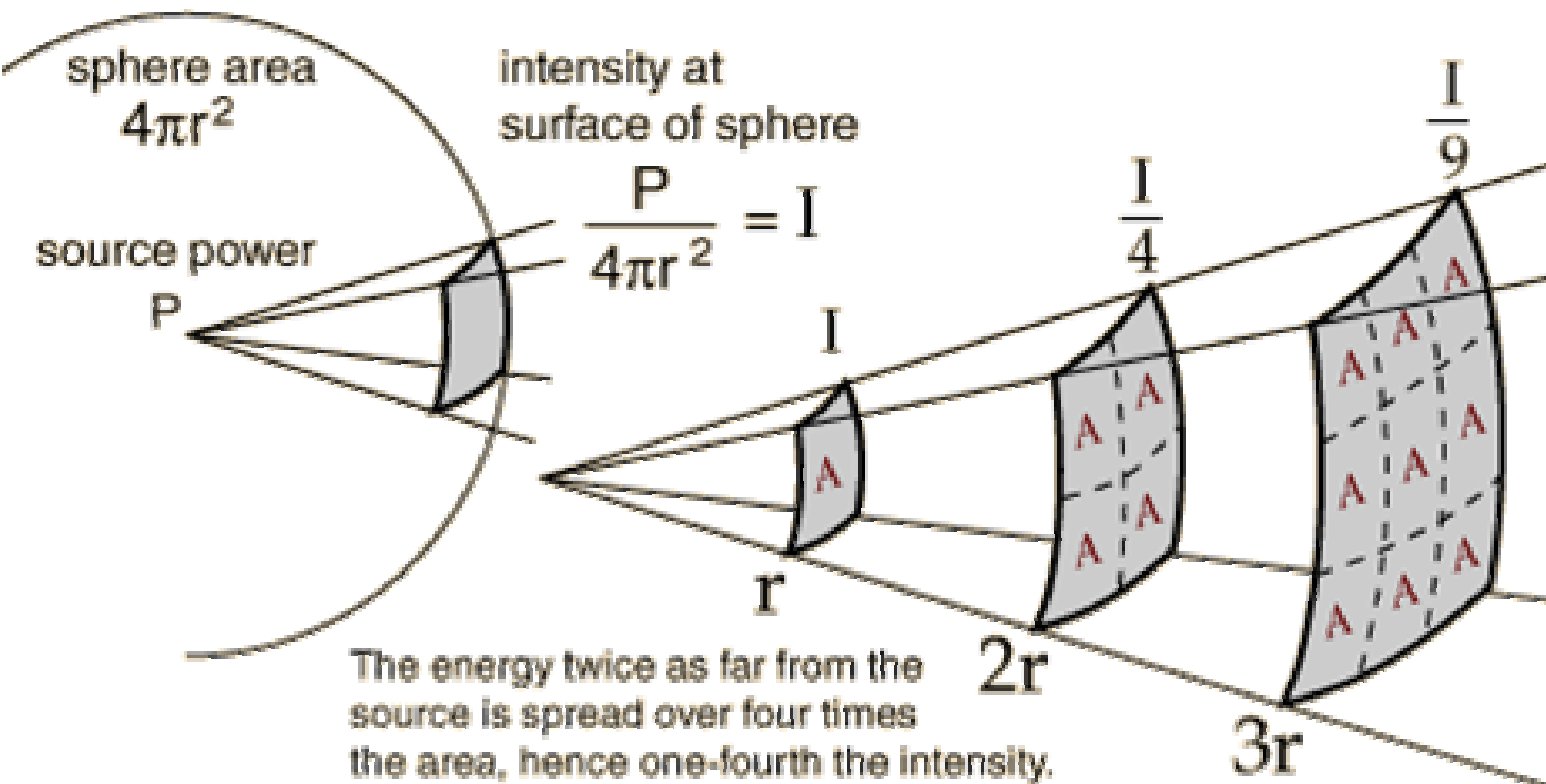
Area measured in cm^2

Intensity in watts per cm^2



$$L_{\text{SUN}} = 4 \times 10^{26} \text{ W}$$

Inverse-square law



For light!!!

$$I = \frac{\text{luminosity}}{\text{cm}^2}$$

Luminosity property of source

Intensity depends on power
and distance between
source and detector (R)

$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{\text{luminosity}}{4\pi R^2}$$

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

**Greeks classified stars into 6 classes,
or magnitudes**

Brightest stars were 1st magnitude

Dimmest stars were 6th magnitude

Intensity of brightest stars = 100 X dimmest.

Logarithmic Eye



**Eyes, like ears, are
logarithmic detectors.**

For sound: $\text{dB}_1 - \text{dB}_2 = \alpha \log(I_1/I_2)$

To define scale, need 3 numbers for reference: α , dB_0 , and I_0

At threshold of hearing: $\text{dB}_0 = 0$ and $I = I_0$

$$\text{dB} = \alpha \log(I/I_0)$$

At threshold of pain: $\text{dB} = 120$ and $I = 10^{12} I_0$

$$120 = \alpha \log(10^{12})$$

$$\boxed{\text{dB} = 10 \log(I/I_0)}$$

For sound: $\text{dB}_1 - \text{dB}_2 = 10 \log(I_1/I_2)$

For light: $m_1 - m_2 = \alpha \log(I_1/I_2)$

$$1 - 6 = \alpha \log(10^2)$$

$$-5/2 = \alpha$$

$$\alpha = -2.5$$

$$m_1 - m_2 = -2.5 \log(I_1/I_2)$$

“—” means smaller m is brighter!

For light: $m_1 - m_2 = -2.5 \log(I_1/I_2)$

Need to define the scale:

$$I_{\odot} = 0.137 \text{ watts cm}^{-2}$$

$$m_{\odot} = -26.8$$

For source of intensity I , the magnitude is

$$-26.8 - m = -2.5 \log(0.137 \text{ watts cm}^{-2}/I)$$

“−” means smaller m is brighter!

Some Magnitudes

Sun	$m = -26.8$
Venus	$m = -4$
Sirius	$m = -1.5$
Naked eye limit	$m = 6$
Binoculars	$m = 10$
Pluto	$m = 15$
Large telescope (visual)	$m = 20$
Large telescope (photograph)	$m = 25$
Large telescope (ccd)	$m = 30$

Intensity of sun vs. naked eye limit

Sun $m_S = -26.8$

Naked eye limit $m_N = 6$

$$m_S - m_N = -2.5 \log(I_S/I_N)$$

$$-27 - 6 = -2.5 \log(I_S/I_N)$$

$$\cancel{-33} = \cancel{-} \frac{5}{2} \log(I_S/I_N)$$

$$33 \times \frac{2}{5} = 13 = \log(I_S/I_N)$$

$$10^{13} = I_S/I_N$$

Intensity of Venus vs. Pluto

Venus

$$m_{\odot} = -4$$

Pluto

$$m_p = 15$$

$$m_{\odot} - m_p = -2.5 \log(I_{\odot}/I_p)$$

$$-4 - 15 = -2.5 \log(I_{\odot}/I_p)$$

$$\cancel{-19} = \cancel{-} \frac{5}{2} \log(I_{\odot}/I_p)$$

$$19 \times \frac{2}{5} = 8 = \log(I_{\odot}/I_p)$$

$$10^8 = I_{\odot}/I_p$$

Intensity of Venus vs. Sirius

Venus

$$m_{\text{♀}} = -4$$

Sirius

$$m_{\text{S}} = -1.5$$

$$m_{\text{♀}} - m_{\text{S}} = -2.5 \log(I_{\text{♀}}/I_{\text{S}})$$

$$-4 - (-1.5) = -2.5 \log(I_{\text{♀}}/I_{\text{S}})$$

$$\cancel{-2.5} = \cancel{-2.5} \log(I_{\text{♀}}/I_{\text{S}})$$

$$1 = \log(I_{\text{♀}}/I_{\text{S}})$$

$$10^1 = 10 = I_{\text{♀}}/I_{\text{S}}$$

The luminosity of nearby stars?

Measure: intensity of light, I

parallax \rightarrow distance

$$I = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2}$$

$$\frac{D}{\text{pc}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{parallax}}$$

$$I = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2}$$

$$-26.8 - m = -2.5 \log(0.137 \text{ watts cm}^{-2} / I)$$

Measured

↙

↘

star	parallax (")	distance (pc)	apparent magnitude	luminosity (solar)
α Centauri	0.75	1.3	0	1.5
Barnard's star	0.5	2.0	9.5	0.0005
Sirius	0.4	2.5	-1.5	25
Altair	0.2	5.0	0.8	10
Canopus	0.003	330	- 0.7	200,000
Arcturus	0.1	10	0	90
Betelgeuse	0.01	100	0.5	14,000

Intensity of Sun vs. Sirius

Sun $m_s = -26.8$

Sirius $m_l = -1.5$

$$m_s - m_l = -2.5 \log(I_s/I_l)$$

$$10^{10} = I_s/I_l$$

We know the distance to Sirius via parallax

Parallax = 0.4 second

Distance = (1/parallax) pc = 2.5 pc = 2.5 X 200,000 AU
= 500,000 AU

**Our Sun ain't the
brightest bulb in the box!**

$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{\text{Luminosity}}{4\pi R^2}$$

$$L_{\text{SIRIUS}} = 25 \times L_{\text{SUN}}$$

For stars we know distance to via parallax:

Measure Distance (R) Know Luminosity
Measure Intensity →

They have different apparent brightness

They have different colors

They move

They change in brightness

COLORS OF THE RAINBOW:

R O Y – G – B I V



Open Cluster (The Pleiades)
130 pc distant

Schematic Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram

BRIGHT
MAGNITUDE
DIM

V

I

B

G

Y

O

R

COLOR

